



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182  
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**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE: REVISIONS TO THE PM<sub>2.5</sub> STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above.

SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed Revision to the Final 2007 AQMP pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002 (k)(1), the first step of a three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA. Because the proposed revision to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP for the South Coast Air Basin would impose no additional requirements other than those currently required by the 2007 AQMP, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment beyond what was evaluated in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (certified June 1, 2007, SCH number 2006111064); and Addendum: Revisions to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and Ozone SIP for the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley (certified March 4, 2011). Since it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project has no potential to adversely impact air quality or any other environmental area, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061 – Review for Exemption, paragraph (b)(3), “commonsense exemption.” In addition, the proposed project qualifies for the following exemptions: 1) Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources (class 7), CEQA Guidelines §15307 and 2) Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment (class 8), CEQA Guidelines §15308. The Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties immediately following the adoption of the proposed project.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Jeff Inabinet (c/o Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Inabinet can also be reached at 909.396.2453. Questions regarding revisions to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP should be directed to Mr. Joe Cassmassi at 909.396.3155.

**Date:** October 7, 2011

**Signature:** Steve Smith

Steve Smith, Ph.D.  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development &  
Area Sources

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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<b>To:</b> County Clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	<b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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**Project Title:**

Revisions to the PM2.5 State Implementation Plan for the South Coast Air Basin

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**Project Location:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) area of jurisdiction consisting of the four-county South Coast Air Basin (Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Based on the U.S. EPA's proposed partial approval and partial disapproval of the 2007 South Coast SIP for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter Standards and the corresponding 2007 State Strategy, SCAQMD is submitting revisions to the PM2.5 SIP to update the SCAQMD's proposal for contingency measures that rely on: 1) equivalent emissions reductions achieved through improvements in air quality, 2) committed emissions reductions for the 2007 AQMP ozone plan, and 3) quantifying excess emissions reductions that were not originally included in the 2007 PM2.5 SIP.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**Exempt Status:**

General Concepts [CEQA Guidelines §15002 (k)(1)]; "Commonsense" Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3)]; Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources (class 7) [CEQA Guidelines §15307]; and Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment (class 8) [CEQA Guidelines §15308]

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The SCAQMD has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1). Potential environmental impacts for all control measures that have been subsequently adopted by CARB as part of the Statewide Strategy were previously analyzed as part of the 2007 AQMP in the following two CEQA documents: Final Program Environmental Impact Report for 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (certified June 1, 2007, SCH number 2006111064); and Addendum: Revisions to the PM 2.5 and Ozone SIP for the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley (certified March 4, 2011). Because the proposed revision to the PM2.5 SIP for the South Coast Air Basin would impose no additional requirements other than those currently required by the 2007 AQMP, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment beyond what was evaluated in the 2007 AQMP Final Program Environmental Impact Report that was certified in 2007 and the Addendum that was certified in 2011. Thus, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3). In addition, the proposed project qualifies for the following exemptions: §15307 and 2) CEQA Guidelines §15308.

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**Certification Date:**

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: October 7, 2011, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

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**CEQA Contact Person:**

Mr. Jeff Inabinet

**Phone Number:**

(909) 396-2453

**Fax Number:**

(909) 396-3324

**Email:**

<jinabinet@aqmd.gov>

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**Rule Contact Person:**

Mr. Joe Cassmassi

**Phone Number:**

(909) 396-3155

**Fax Number:**

(909) 396-3324

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<jcassmassi@aqmd.gov>

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Date Received for Filing \_\_\_\_\_

Signature           Signed upon certification          

Steve Smith, Ph.D.  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources